(b) the percentage of loans given to members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of the above;

(c) the details of such loans category-wise *i.e.* number of SCs and STs who availed loans up to 1,2,5,10 lakh and above 10 lakh; and

(d) what steps are being taken or proposed to be taken to ensure that their fair share of percentage of loans by the banks go to these sections?

THE MINISTER OF STAE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loans for muslims in negative and red zones

4341. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many banks have designated a number of Muslim concentrated areas as negative or red zones where they do not give loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hoarding of foodgrains

4342. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some firms are accessing funds from Non Banking Companies to buy and hoard foodgrains;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has voiced its concern over some corporates accessing funds from these institutions to buy and hoard foodgrains;

(c) if so, whether RBI has sought report from these institutions; and

(d) if so, the action taken by RBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular

dated February 23, 2007 to all Systemically Important non-deposit taking Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) with asset size of Rs. 100 crore and above to undertake a scrutiny of their financial exposures to large borrowers for procurement of foodgrains. RBI has advised these NBFCs to consider a quick scrutiny of accounts on which they have large exposure and conform that funds have not been diverted for procurement of foodgrains with a view of hoarding. All such NBFCs have confirmed to RBI that funds have not been diverted for procurement of foodgrains so as to facilitate hoarding.

Selection of project management consultants for Japan aided project

4343. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry received suggestions from the Ministry of Urban Development for the selection of project management consultants for the Japan aided water and sewage project in Bangalore;

(b) what are the suggestions and what actions have been taken by his Ministry; and

(c) what is the progress of this internationally aided project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Ministry of Urban Development has requested for a detailed investigation in the matter. As this is a State sector project, comments of the State Government have been sought on the observations of Ministry of Urban Development.

(c) The contract for Project Management Consultancy has been finalised. The loan disbursement under the project is nil till date.

Revival of Sick SSIs

4344. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any economic package for revival of sick small scale industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of Kohli Working Group, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)